

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (previously presented) An article suspension device for infants, comprising:

encircling means for surrounding an object;

an adjustable elastic loop;

a single length of cord having a first end secured to said elastic loop and a second end secured to said encircling means; and

said cord includes a cover extending between said first end and said second end of said cord in outer surrounding relation to said cord, said cover being stretchable a predetermined distance between a retracted position and an extended position in response to stretching of said cord.

2. (original) A device according to claim 1 wherein said encircling means comprises a free end portion releasably secured to a base portion of said encircling means.

3. (previously presented) A device according to claim 2 wherein said free end portion is secured to said base portion with a snap fastener.

4. (original) A device according to claim 1 wherein said encircling means comprises a carabiner.

5. (previously presented) A device according to claim 1 wherein said elastic loop is formed as a continuation of said

cord.

6. (original) A device according to claim 1 wherein said elastic loop includes means for adjusting a length of said loop and said cord.

7. (previously presented) A device according to claim 6 wherein said adjusting means is defined by a body member having a first material-receiving slot and a second material-receiving slot, said first material-receiving slot extending along a parallel axis with said second material receiving slot.

8. (original) A device according to claim 7 wherein said adjusting means further includes a slidable gate normally urged to a closed position by a spring member.

9. (original) A device according to claim 8 wherein a combination of said slidable gate in an open position and said spring form an unobstructed passage through which said length of cord may pass.

10. (original) A device according to claim 1 wherein said cord includes elastic.

11. (canceled)

12. (previously presented) An article suspension device for infants, comprising:

an adjustable elongated single elastic cord having means at a first end for encircling a stationary object;

an elastic loop at a second end of said cord including a slidable member affixed to one end of said elastic loop and including means for releasably engaging said cord whereby to adjustably encircle an article inserted in said loop; and

a flexible cover member extending between said first end and said second end in outer surrounding relation to said cord, said cover being stretchable a predetermined length between a retracted position and an extended position thereby limiting the extent of stretch of said cord.

13. (previously presented) A device according to claim 12 wherein said encircling means includes a securing member for detachably securing said cord to a stationary object.

14. (previously presented) A device according to claim 13 wherein said securing member includes a releasable handle.

15. (previously presented) A device according to claim 12 wherein said means for releasably engaging said cord includes a clamping member for securely engaging a length of said cord.

16. (previously presented) A device according to claim 12 wherein said means for releasably engaging said cord includes a body member with a single material-receiving opening at a first end and a slidable gate.

17. (canceled)

18. (canceled)

19. (canceled)

20. (previously presented) A device according to claim 12 wherein said cover member includes a fabric sleeve.